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AJONES

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF : :

TAKASHI MASATO : /

SERIAL NO: NEW U.S. PCT APPLN. : ATTN: APPLICATION BRANCH
(Based on PCT/JP99/05928)

FILED: HEREWITH : /

FOR: STAGE UNIT, EXPOSURE APPARATUS,
DEVICE MANUFACTURING METHOD,
AND DEVICE

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

SIR:

Prior to a first examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as shown below. A marked-up copy follows this amendment.

Please replace the paragraph on page 6, lines 2-13, with the following text:

According to the first aspect of the present invention, there is provided a stage unit comprising: a sample stage that holds a sample; a stage driving mechanism that drives the sample stage in at least one direction; a first transmitting member to which at least one part of the stage driving mechanism is connected and a reaction force caused by driving the